

Application No. 09/833,546

Applicants point out that claim 1 is not included in the rejection. In addition, Applicants point out that claim 2 is included in the rejection, but claim 2 was cancelled in the last amendment dated December 18, 2002. Applicants assume the rejection is over claims 1, 3-16, 18 and 25. Applicants would like to ask the Examiner whether claims 17, and 19-24 contain allowable subject matter, as these claims were not included in the rejection.

As set forth in the previous amendment, Parker, et al. does not teach or suggest an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive as claimed in claim 1.

Turning to Fuller, et al., Applicants would like to specifically point out that this reference does not teach an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive as claimed. Instead, the reference teaches that one of the layers of the electrostatographic imaging member comprises polyamides and alcohol-soluble polyamides. Binder resins are included in the layers and are used within the matrix of the different layers such as a charge generation binder layer. In other words, the alcohol-soluble polyamide is the layer itself, and is not an adhesive within the layer. It is a separate layer on the photoreceptor. Again, the photoreceptor is a multi-layer photoreceptor with the various layers stacked on top of one another. The reference does not teach or suggest use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive, but instead teaches use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide as a layer. Adhesives are listed which bind these layers together. These adhesives taught by the reference, do not include alcohol-soluble polyamides. Therefore, the reference does not teach or suggest an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive to bind two ends of a belt together as claimed.

Applicants submit that Sakakibara, et al. does not teach or suggest the deficiencies of the primary and secondary references, namely, the reference does not teach or suggest an alcohol-soluble polyamide used as an adhesive to bind two ends of a belt together as claimed.

Turning to the quaternary reference, Applicants submit that the publication entitled "Handbook of Thermoset Plastics" also does not teach or suggest use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive to bind two ends of a belt together as claimed.

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In addition, Fuller, et al., Sakakibara, et al. and the publication do not teach or suggest a belt comprising a first end and a second end, each of the first end and second comprising a plurality of mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship to form a seam. The claimed endless seamed flexible belt is of a unique structure having mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship to form a seam. Such a unique belt having mutually mating elements and in an interlocking relationship as claimed, requires a specific adhesive to bond these interlocking members together. Although Parker, et al. teaches a puzzle cut seamed belt having mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship, the reference does not teach or suggest an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art faced with the teachings of the secondary, tertiary and quaternary references, would not have been motivated to use an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive to bind mutually mating elements of seamed members as claimed. Again, Fuller, et al. does not teach or suggest an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive. Instead, the reference teaches use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide as a binder resin layer of a photoreceptor. The tertiary and quaternary references also do not include the teaching of an alcohol-soluble adhesive to bind seaming members as claimed.

Because none of the references teach or suggest the elements of the present claims, including the use of an alcohol-soluble polyamide adhesive to bind mutually mating elements in an endless seamed flexible belt, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious in view of the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-16, 18 and 25 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., in view of Fuller, et al., and further in view of Sakakibara, and the Handbook of Thermoset Plastics.

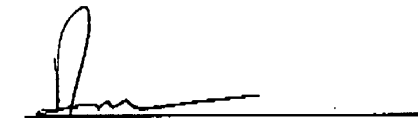
In view of the above arguments, Applicants submit that all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Early indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

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No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, s/he is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Annette L. Bade, at telephone number (310) 333-3682.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 11, 2003
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